

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is submitted concurrently with the filing of the present application, which is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/172,943.

The amendments made to the drawings and specification in the parent application response to the Office Action mailed June 17, 2003, have been incorporated into the present application.

Applicant has cancelled original claims 1-20 and submits new claims 21-44 for consideration. Applicant asserts that new claims 21-44 are patentable over the prior art.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 10013566-4 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

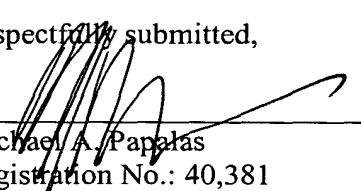
Dated: September 18, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV256032659US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: September 18, 2003

Signature: _____
(John Pallivathukal)

Respectfully submitted,

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